

American Research Center In Egypt, Inc.

NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER NUMBER SEVENTY-EIGHT

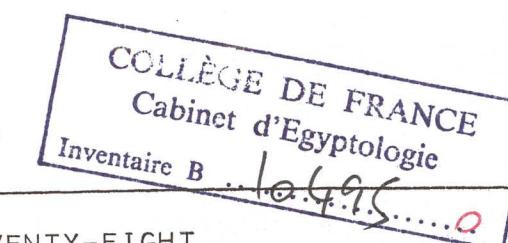
JULY 1971

Twenty Nassau St.
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
United States of America

No. 2 Kasr el Dubbara
Garden City, Cairo
United Arab Republic

AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT
INCORPORATED

20 NASSAU STREET
PRINCETON, N. J. 08540
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TELEPHONE: 609-921-3797



NO. 2 KASR EL DOUBARA
GARDEN CITY, CAIRO
UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

NEWSLETTER NUMBER SEVENTY-EIGHT

JULY 1971

CONTENTS

	Page
Notes from Princeton	1
Work in the Necropolis of El-Tarif	3
by Dr. Dieter Arnold	
Report of the Fourth Campaign of the Austrian Mission, University of Vienna, in the Asasif	4
by Dr. Manfred Bietak	
Impressions of a Fellow Traveller	7
by John L. Foster	
U. A. R. Cabinet of Ministers	16
National Archaeological Institutes in Cairo	18
Notes on Activities in the UAR	19
The Center's Guest Book	21

The Newsletter is published quarterly. Subscription rate is \$5. per year.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: (Include <u>Newsletter</u> and <u>Journal of ARCE</u>)	Individual Member.....\$12.00	Student...\$7.00
	Research Supporting Member (institutions only	2500.00
	Institutional Member.....	500.00
	President.....	Gustave E. von Grunebaum
	Vice-President.....	George R. Hughes
	Interim Secretary.....	L. Carl Brown
	Treasurer.....	William D. Schorger
	Cairo Director.....	John Dorman
	U.S. Director and <u>Newsletter</u> Editor.....	Lily M. Brown

The editor invites commentary, to be considered for publication in
future issues, on Newsletter contents.

CABLE ADDRESS: ARCE, PRINCETON



NOTES FROM PRINCETON

Director

Leon B. Poullada resigned his posts of Secretary and United States Director of ARCE on June 30. He is succeeded as Director by Mrs. Lily M. Brown, who has been Executive Secretary for the past year. The Executive Committee at its meeting on May 22 named L. Carl Brown Interim Secretary. On September 1 Dr. Poullada will assume the position of Professor in Political Science and Distinguished University Lecturer at Northern Arizona University. ARCE will miss him and wishes him well in his new work.

Annual Meeting

The 1971 Annual Meeting of ARCE will be held at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, on November 19 and 20, through the courtesy of Mr. Perry Rathbone, Director of the Museum, and William Kelly Simpson, Curator of Egyptian and Ancient Near Eastern Art.

Former ARCE Fellows

All who have received ARCE Research Fellowships at any time are invited to meet for luncheon on Thursday, November 11 at 12:15 at the MESA meetings in Denver; location of the luncheon will be announced. Cairo Director John Dorman plans to help the Fellows organize an ARCE FELLOWS ALUMNI ORGANIZATION. Information and reservations may be obtained from the Princeton office.

Father Anawati

Father G. C. Anawati (Institut Dominicain d'Etudes Orientales, Cairo), an Honorary Member of ARCE, visited Princeton in late April. Twenty-five persons attended a dinner in his honor given jointly by the American Research Center in Egypt and the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University, of which L. Carl Brown is Chairman. While he was in Princeton, Father Anawati met with the Department faculty and graduate students for a question and answer session covering various aspects of Islamic philosophy. Father Anawati will be Visiting Professor of Islamic Philosophy at UCLA during the Winter or Spring quarter, 1972.

Board of Governors

The annual budgetary meeting of the Board was held on May 22. One of the decisions taken was to bring to the attention of the 1971 Nominating Committee the Governors' willingness to welcome women of adequate scholarly attainment to serve on the Board.

Project

The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities, Toronto, is undertaking to catalogue all seven volumes of the Coffin Texts.

Publications of Interest

"The Fustat Mounds, A Shard Count 1968" is the subject of a paper by George T. Scanlon in Volume 24, Number 3, June 1971 of Archaeology. The author reports illuminating detail discoveries which further indicate that these particular mounds are unstratified, and which reveal "the statistical importance of glazed pottery within Egyptian economy and taste ca. 1200-1400.....the tremendous importance of imported wares on Egyptian consumer consciousness, particularly from China; from Northern Syria and Persia, the 'Eastern Mediterranean' littoral, Tunisia and Muslim Spain to a lesser extent. We sense the 'phasing-in' and phasing-out of styles; the appetite and acuity of the Egyptian ceramic craftsmen in making the strange artistically palatable and amenable."

The daily shard count included an "overwhelming incidence of Imitation Celadons and the yellow-brown range of Mamluk Sgraffito wares, the paucity of Mamluk Slip-painted wares, the dominance of blue-black in the Underglaze Painted wares, and the predominance of green-wares."

William A. Ward has published "The Origin of Egyptian Design-Amulets ('Button Seals') in The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology, Volume 56, 1970 in which he presents evidence for Egyptian origin of design-amulets.

The Archaeological Institute of America has published a useful monograph entitled "Archaeology in American Colleges", which may be obtained from the Institute at 260 West Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10013 for \$1.50. It contains an alphabetical listing of all universities in the United States and Canada. The monograph concludes with four indexes: Degrees Granted, Departments, Excavations and Field Schools, which offer courses in archaeology, whether the institutions grant degrees in this or related fields, faculty members, current excavations, summer field schools and sources of further information.

WORK IN THE NECROPOLIS OF EL-TARIF

by Dr. Dieter Arnold, German Archaeological Institute in Cairo

The Theban necropolis is by no means confined to the well-known tomb hills of Qurnet Murrai, Scheikh Abd el-Qurna and Dra Abu Nega but extends northwards at least one mile beyond the temple of Seti I. This northernmost part of the necropolis and the village around it is called el-Tarif, "the End". In Egyptology the area is known as "Intef Cemetery", so called because of the huge tombs of the three "Intef-kings" of the first half of the 11th Dynasty. These tombs and the numerous smaller private ones around them clearly represent the saff-type, a tomb consisting of a forecourt sunk into the flat desert-ground and having a facade of 2 to 20 pillars in the background of this court. Unfortunately, nearly all of these tombs are uninscribed, but they have already produced several dozen stele, some of them giving important historical information about the early 11th Dynasty. During the last century only a few archaeological investigations were made, by Maspero, Mariette and later by Petrie. Since then no archaeological work has been reported. In the meantime the houses of the modern village have spread over the entire area, already covering most of the tombs and penetrating even into the royal saff-tombs.

In order to secure as much information as can still be gained from this cemetery, the German Archaeological Institute started work there in the winter of 1970-71 studying the area. A map 1:1000 was prepared by the Austrian surveyor Joseph Dorner to serve as a basis for an archaeological survey which is planned for the next season. This survey should give at least some hint as to the development of the tomb plans, their distribution over the area and perhaps a catalogue of pottery types and their sequence. Some excavation work was already done last winter. The interior parts of the southernmost royal saff-tomb (the saff el-Dawaba) were cleared, which is thought to be connected with King Intef III (Horus Nacht-neb-tep-nefer). No evidence was found to substantiate this theory, but the studies of Theban pottery of the Middle Kingdom, carried out by Mrs. D. Arnold, were provided with a huge amount of new material. About 300 completely preserved pots were found and quite as many sabat-baskets full of potsherds, from which about 10,000 potsherds were selected for further studies. It seems evident by now, that this "Tarif-ware" differs somewhat from the pottery found in the Middle Kingdom tombs of Asasif. Furthermore, quite a few painted

fragments were found which could be clearly dated to the 11th Dynasty representing ornaments, plants with birds, and desert animals painted in shining green, red, yellow and blue. The royal tomb shaft was - as we expected - already plundered. The excavation made possible an architectural survey of the tomb and also proved that at least this saff-tomb possessed no pyramid. It seems to be very unlikely now that the two other royal tombs ever had one.

REPORT OF THE FOURTH CAMPAIGN OF THE AUSTRIAN MISSION, UNIVERSITY
OF VIENNA, IN THE ASASIF

by Dr. Manfred Bietak

(Following is an excerpt from Dr. Bietak's report on the Austrian Expedition in the Asasif, which took place during March and April 1971. Tomb IV is located to the east of the southern rockface containing a relatively clean cut from the causeway of Thutmosis III, not far from the debris of the quarry of Queen Hatshepsut.)

The superstructure of Tomb IV consisted of a long mud brick building, apparently north-south, built against the west wall of Tomb V. The building was divided by an internal wall with a door into an antechamber and a cultchamber, both once covered by a long vault. The cultchamber had a recess, partly chiseled into the southern rock-face of height 104, partly built on mudbricks. In the recess were built two niches, one above the other, each having a round vault as upper ending. The entrance from the antechamber to the cultchamber opens into a row of steps. There were found two parts of a wooden board, bearing a hieratic inscription of a wisdom text, a wooden mummy statuette of a tomb owner. Thrown outside the shaft, on the western end of the court, were mummy bandages bearing short ink inscriptions in cursive hieroglyphs. Exactly the same title and name were found on fragments of a painted shrine, some steps in front of tomb chamber 1. This chamber was half filled with dusty and stony debris, the lower filling rather compact and containing potsherds, fragments of wooden coffins, cartonages and a fine set of fayence amulets, all of them probably fastened on a pectoral. From burial chamber 1 was a hole chiseled through to Tomb V in the north and beside it one further burial chamber, not worth mentioning in more detail.

To the south two openings led to chambers 5 and 6, left unexcavated for security reasons. All these chambers had once

been closed by mudbrick walls, from which only the lowest courses were left. Of interest was a shaft from the bottom of chamber 1 leading in 3-4-meter depth to two further chambers, No. 2 opening to the north, No. 3 to the south. Both entrances were not closed by bricks but closed by the accumulated debris in the shaft. In addition to wooden coffin masks, fayence beads, pottery and the usual finds, was discovered a wooden mummy figure with "atef"-feathers and covers of several wooden shrines with hawks sitting on them.

The burial chamber 2, chiseled out from the shaft northwards, obviously had been plundered, but in ancient times. It contained three wooden painted coffins inside each other. The outer one had a round vaulted roof. Inside it were two anthropoid coffins of very fine work, all belonging to nbt pr Hrirwt s3t Pwn, very likely a lady of Nubian or Sudanese origin, depicted on her coffins as a negro with peppercorn hair, guided by Thoth and Anubis in front of Osiris. The Egyptonized syllabic writing of her and her father's name was written in a more "Berberi" form on the inner side of the innermost coffin. The lids of the coffins had been lifted aside by ancient tomb robbers who also removed the mummy. Beside the coffins still stood in situ a wooden mummy form statuette with Osiris feathers and ramhorns and two painted and inscribed wooden chests filled with ushabtis.

In the chamber opposite this, No. 3, were five coffins, one standing on the other. One of the uppermost, a child's coffin, had been opened and the mummy bandages loosened in order to obtain light for the search. The lowermost was left untouched. In it were found two anthropoid painted coffins, one inside the other, belonging also to a Nubian or Sudanese. The skeleton showed some negroid affinities. The mummification was bad and the bones under the bandages were macerated. Over the bandages was a network of cylindrical blue fayence beads. On the chest was a fayence scarab with wings of small white, red and yellow ringbeads. The Horus sons, generally to be found as fayence amulets on mummies, were made in beadwork as well.

At the entrance of chamber 3 was found a wooden statuette of a hawk, relatively large, but of the same type as those found in the chamber 1 and in the shaft, sitting on shrine covers as protectors.

In the filling of the shaft were discovered a big mummy statuette with Osiris feathers & fragments of shrines from different persons, partly with names in syllabic writing.

Further south a row of tomb super-structures of mudbrick was excavated. The date of these tombs is again between 26 Dynasty and the beginning of the Ptolemaic Period. All the area of the Asasif was crowded at that time with tomb structures in mudbricks with a whitish coating reflecting perhaps an atmosphere similar to the Islamic cemeteries of Old Cairo. The former causeway areas of Thutmose III and Mentuhotep served as necropolis streets. The northernmost row was along the southern ridge of the height 104, including tomb VII of this season. On the borders of the causeways of Thutmose III and Mentuhotep had been arranged a double row of tombs, while minor tombs can also be found along the middle of the Thutmose III causeway. A part of this double row of tombs was uncovered and indeed there were some interesting structures to be found: templelike superstructures with a court and pylons in front and three chapels. The shaft usually descends from the middle chapel to the chamber. Of exactly this type was tomb VI this season, oriented east-west, with the chapels in the West end, a forecourt lined with relief stones from the temple of the 20th dynasty in the Asasif.

East of this was a tomb with a houselike layout, with a court or foreroom, around which were arranged several rooms, one of them obviously a sleeping room with a bench of mudbricks. This house tomb had shafts going to the burial chambers from one of the rooms and from the court.

Further westwards in this row was discovered the super-structure of a huge tomb measuring approximately 60 by 30 m, with two pairs of pylons towards the east, and a depression marking most probably a court sunk into the rocks. In fact it is one of the biggest tombs in the Asasif beside Pabesa and Montuemha. While nearly nothing of the structure is now visible, the outlines of this tomb appear on the map of the Theban necropolis, drawn by the Richard Lepsius expedition. During the excavation work at this tomb some inscribed blocks of fine limestone were found, one mentioning the titles inj - r3img hnt dw3t ntr ... t3tj., unfortunately not the owner's name.

South of this tomb row was another necropolis street on the former causeway of Mentuhotep and even now a street runs along there, turning 80 m before the asphalt-road to Dra' Abu en-Nag' towards the south east. This change in the direction may derive from a time even prior to this late time necropolis, when the way following the causeway of Mentuhotep had to pass outside the Temple area of the 20th dynasty.



At left - Dr. and Mrs. Bietak at Thebes, April 1971.
photo by LMB

IMPRESSIONS OF A FELLOW TRAVELLER

by John L. Foster, Professor of English, Roosevelt University

Among the tribe of Egyptologists I am a half-breed, a sort of cross between unofficial graduate student and interloper pure and simple. I say this in order not to move about in distinguished circles with false credentials. I "profess" to teach American literature and have followed the course of modern poetry with special interest. It was while completing training in Ann Arbor not too many years ago, during a particularly dry spell in doctoral studies, that my interest in ancient Egypt first showed itself. I discovered the Kelsey Museum (it had always been standing there, but--just another building) and in it a translation of the Song of the Harper (the one in Intef's tomb) hanging on the wall over a long case in the front hallway displaying a Book of the Dead. Maybe it was the shock of reading something so lively, so unexpected, surviving from the Land of the Long-and Many-Dead (as I thought of Egypt then). Within a few days I had purchased my copy of ANET and had "retranslated" Professor Wilson's text of that Song into something which in my innocence I called a poem.

After finishing my professional training, teaching at various universities (with that seed planted by the Harper's Song hidden but growing in the dark), I gravitated to the city of Chicago, the Oriental Institute, and informal training in Egyptian hieroglyphic. Along the way, one chairman (a genuinely kind man) had gently intimated my latent interest in translating Egyptian poetry smacked of the dilettante--he never said it quite that way, of course. "Make your reputation in literature; then turn to such things if you must." But the roots were taking firm hold and wouldn't pull out, though I tried for a time to act the conscientious traditional literary scholar. I just did not really want to write the fiftieth book on Melville (or whoever).

But there was a key to the dilemma posed by my divided loyalties: the figure of Ezra Pound--that great, troubled, and now silent poet. He, of course, is a consummate translator--a point often disputed by experts in those languages from which he translates. But his translations are usually poems--he makes the ancient texts new for our time, readable as literature--and that was the connection for me. Why not, I thought, try to follow his lead (at whatever distance), learn hieroglyphic, let the translation of the ancient texts serve as my "scholarly research," and thus make myself respectable while doing what I really wanted to do. So, I started learning hieroglyphic at the Institute while at odd moments attempting to turn Egyptian love lyrics into modern poems without killing them (I began with Gardiner's beautiful volume of P. Chester Beatty I). Later, a few of these got themselves published here and there in magazines of poetry; and then came a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities for "the study and translation of ancient Egyptian literature." And, finally, Egypt.

I went there last March and stayed for a month; and if the ancient gods permit, I shall return. I took along my xerox copies of the love songs in Beatty I and Harris 500, my Faulkner (one doesn't carry the Wörterbuch by air coach, and besides I didn't own a set), Edwards' book on the pyramids, a 1914 Baedeker loaned by a friend at the Institute, and a parallel text version of the Hymn to the Nile on which I had been working. I wanted to sit there in Cairo or Luxor, watching the Nile go by, and be moved to surpassing translations (--it didn't happen). I was a tourist officially; but I meant to be a "sightseer" in a special sense. For, the real purpose of my visit was to try to answer the question (phrased by Pound half a century ago as he began his Cantos): "Where do we come upon the ancient people?" I was in Egypt for the atmosphere--to get the feel of the place, to absorb impressions of the Nile Valley, to stock up on memories of what life must have been like along the River. Put more academically, I wanted to

experience the texture of life in Egypt with my own senses (not merely imagine it or look at photos) in order to better understand the allusions and imagery of the ancient poems I was engaged in translating, so that I could avoid anachronisms and meanings alien to the ancient Egyptians as I worked the texts into modern American speech. The translator recalls with professional horror the ticking clock in (I think it was) Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. Such was my purpose, anyway; and I believe I made progress, considering my short time there. But I had not reckoned with the magnificent turbulence of modern Egypt.

I stayed at a modest ("spartan" would be a better word) pension in Garden City, just off Tahrir Square, overlooking the Tahrir Bridge and within a stone's throw of ARCE headquarters. I had arrived late at night after nearly 24 hours aboard the milk run from New York which stops at most of the capitals of southern Europe, flying deeper and deeper into the past as it goes: bright dawn and the unexpectedly green headlands of Portugal rising out of the Atlantic (after the drabness of March in the mid-West); the brownish highlands over Spain; the damp unfriendly chill of Rome airport; a night thunderstorm at Athens; and then (far back in history) the landing at dusty, sandstinging Cairo. Somewhere along the way I had forgotten a night's sleep and absorbed seven meals. I had just beaten a major snow-storm out of the States (as I learned later); and Cairo was hot and humid for 10 o'clock at night.

After a jarring and swerving night ride through the streets of Cairo in the smallest "airport bus" I have ever been privileged to see, I was shown to my room where a huge double window overlooked the bridge, the River, and night over the city.

Off to the half-right and downriver was the Nile Hilton and half-left on the far bank was the Cairo Tower. Traffic was light at that hour--it was midnight by then--and only a few cars would cross the bridge, their lights low and bluish, and only a few people were still on the streets. And the Nile was there, going by my window as I had always dreamed; but only part of a moon was out, and the River was only a lighter grey presence in the darkness. I kept sitting there by the window, trying to have an impression. But nothing specific would come--only the subdued movements and

sounds of the modern city. It was not the hour to discover how to come upon the ancient people.

The next morning I went over to introduce myself at ARCE. Professor Hughes (without whose help my trip would have been impossible) had written ahead mentioning my coming; and although I really had no sort of claim upon the people at ARCE, they received me splendidly. I don't know how many kinds and cups of coffee I had there that morning. Madame Habachi and I hit it off immediately; you see, we were both "poets" (she flattered me)--she in French and I in American. Then I met John Dorman; and his kindness was exceptional. Indeed, my memories of Cairo will always be flavored by the Dormans' hospitality; without them my stay would have been a different and feeble thing. I explained my purpose in Egypt; and he was ready with bits of crucial advice and short cuts that the tourist on his initial visit never thinks of.

After we had talked for awhile, mapping out a schedule of places to visit and persons to see we drove over to call upon Dr. Moukhtar at his office in the Bureau of Documentation. He had many visitors but received us kindly and we were treated to cinnamon tea. Then we called on Dr. Riad at the Cairo Museum for a pleasant conversation. He had just returned from Luxor where he had taken his children for their first sight of the monuments in Western Thebes. I envied them; for I hadn't yet been there. Dr. Riad looked over my work and answered my enquiry about unpublished literary ostraca by suggesting I talk with Professor Posener, who had just arrived in town. Later I would spend a memorable hour at the French Institute discussing ancient Egyptian literature with him. Then it was time for lunch at the Dormans' (2 p.m.--and I soon learned that one's stomach had to change its rhythm to fit Near Eastern dining habits). It was from the Dormans' balcony I first saw the Giza pyramids--standing small and hazy and lion-colored in a gap on the city skyline. I thought of Sinuhe, in a different age, beginning his narration: "The god ascended to his Horizon."

I was to visit those pyramids, as well as Memphis and Sakkara, with Dr. Zaki Saad. He was spending a busy retirement by guiding visitors about the monuments. I remember him as short, cheerful, informal, energetic--an excellent guide, one who had actually dug--and hatless. He was bald, with a fringe of white hair above his ears; and how he could tramp around the desert plateaus of Giza and Sakkara without his head covered and without ill effect I shall never know. I admired him for this; for, the one time I forgot to wear my hat (this was later, in Luxor) the sun god struck me down for a day for going uncovered in his presence.

When we went to Sakkara, after another careening trip through those incredibly busy streets of daytime Cairo, we turned south from Giza along the little country highway. Dr. Saad knew all the best places to stop the car for memorial photos; and we paused regularly. We stopped for a moment at the pitiful remains that keep knowledge of Memphis alive, looking at the colossus of the fallen Ramesses and having our picture taken with the sphinx there. Then we took the valley road to the Step Pyramid. The fields were still a lush green, and the people were working them with their animals. I had not been prepared for the rich garden effect made by the land under cultivation; and it was pleasant to be out in the clean air and the sunlight, away from the turmoil of the city. Then we saw the Pyramid, framed under the branches of trees lining the road, sitting up on the plateau, yellow against the deep blue sky. Here was one of those moments--and it happened unexpectedly, without my willing it--where the darkness of five millennia lifted; and I could imagine the peasants of the Old Kingdom working in those same fields, always aware of the god's House of Eternity brooding over them, comforted and awed by his living presence.

We spent the day clambering about the enclosure, eating oranges as we went, entering the pyramid through (I think it was) a robber's tunnel to view the central burial shaft, descending into the tomb under the south enclosure wall to see the blue-tiled chambers (keys to locked doors would quietly drop into Dr. Saad's hand), watching the progress of the reconstruction work on the subsidiary buildings, climbing up on the wall to look at the whole line of pyramids stretching southwards to the horizon. We explored the complex of ruins between Zoser's south wall and the Unas Causeway (my guide had once dug there); and then we walked along the latter to where excavations were in progress. We entered the tomb of Nefer, still beautifully preserved, the colors bright on the walls, and took all the pictures we wanted. Then I went down the ladder to pay my respects to Nefer himself, who was lying in his burial crypt naked, blackened, thoroughly handsome, and at peace. The viewer's side of the crypt had been fitted with a pane of glass and the mummy tilted slightly toward it. He had, if memory serves me correctly, the standard short hairdo of the Old Kingdom noble, fat cheeks and round head, and a fine physique. Except for the stiff arrangement of his limbs, he looked exactly like one of the Old Kingdom statues of a nobleman, reminding me of the Sheikh el-Beled in the Cairo Museum.

I made many visits to the Cairo Museum; and I savored it room by room, for here truly was the gods' plenty. Indeed, having some knowledge of what was there, I ignored the Tutankhamun treasure intending to see it last (but time ran out). Because of the

uncertainties of wartime, the glass of the display cases was crisscrossed with tape, and many of the especially valued larger statues were sandbagged. Some cases were moved to the sides of rooms for protection; and little Old Kingdom figures were sitting in them staring at blank walls, serenely unperturbed by the indignity. No matter; their faded eyes had already seen a good deal. I made my pilgrimage to Narmer's palette and the furniture of Queen Hetepheres, stood before the inscrutable statues of Rahotep and Nofret (who gazed right through me, their eyes fixed on eternity), looked into the gouged eyesockets of Zoser, visited the models of Meketre's villa, was struck by the tangle of grace and grotesquery in the Amarna room, and tried to imagine, while looking at Hatshepsut, what her relationship could have been to Senmut that he should have himself carved in stone joined forever with her daughter, or what person the Queen could have been to cause all that anger. I spent much time in the rooms devoted to writing, examining the scribe's materials, the hieratic and figured ostraca, and the papyri.

But I most nearly came upon the ancient people in the room containing the Royal Mummies. What I thought might be a tourist-trap was indeed awesome in its stark simplicity. A small bare room, with only rows of oblong glass cases. But in them the great pharaohs of the New Kingdom lying head to toe, each decently covered to the neck in an ancient shroud. I had the room to myself that morning; and I must have spent an hour pausing quietly at each simple bier, looking at the dried features, and trying to imagine them alive, controlling the destiny of the then known world: Sekenenre, with only his head left, and that smashed and cracked and the remains of his lips horribly twisted; Thutmosis III, the predecessor of Alexander, powerless to prevent graverobbers from twisting his head from his body; Ramesses II, old and hawnosed, but not looking at all like a megalomaniac; Sety I simply asleep; Hatshepsut and Akhnaton were not there, of course, and Tutankhamun remained in the Valley of the Kings; but the roster of mighty dead was almost complete. One could even imagine them, after the lights went out, whispering together about the good old days.

I spent the middle two of my four weeks in Egypt at Luxor, staying at Chicago House through the kindness of Dr. and Mrs. Nims. As I first went through the gate and up the front walk lined with tall trees and bright with flowers, I had another of those glimpses for which I had come to Egypt; for I saw live hieroglyphs scurrying back and forth across the pavement--the tiny lizards shaped exactly like the ancient sign for "many" or "multitudinous". And from their number I thought I understood why the Egyptians had used them for that meaning. Whether my observation was scientifically accurate or not did not matter; it was imaginatively true.



Chicago House, Luxor, April, 1971.

photo by LMB

Luxor was only a village peaceful after the rush of Cairo, moving to the tempo of the donkeycart, with only an occasional bus belching clouds of black smoke. And it was hot, in the 90s and 100s in mid-March, with the potency of the sun deceptive in the low humidity, and weather changed only by the wind. My window here too looked out across the street to the River and the cliffs of Western Thebes in the distance. The Nile was an incredible blue at Luxor, with now and then a picturebook sail on it, or river-freighters, or the uncertain ferries making a crossing. The near bank was planted with trees; and I would stand in the passageway between sitting room and library and look through the trees to the yellow of the far banks topped with the same deep green of cultivated fields I had seen at Sakkara. They were burning off the sugar cane then, and smoke would be rising here and there against the background of cliffs. And those cliffs were always changing character--contoured and shadowed in morning and afternoon, stark, sterile, and almost featureless at noon. Tawny in bright sun, they would be tinged at dawn and dusk with pastels of tan, beige, and violet. One of the artists at Chicago House, Reg Coleman, was recording these moods of the western hills, capturing them in geometric forms on the canvases he would paint and hang in his room as the season progressed.

The rhythm of life at Chicago House was an alternating series of contractions and dispersions, comfortable and well-regulated. The staff would gather for meals and tea, then scatter again for

work at the temple or library or to go about their own affairs. I sometimes went with the epigraphers to watch them at work on their ladders copying inscriptions in the Temple of Khonsu at Karnak. I would take the stairway to the upper level, sit down, and look into the morning sun at the huge, sprawling complex of Amon's Temple with its myriads of columns and lintels, doorways and courts, the two remaining obelisks against the sky, the tainted sacred lake backed by the faroff Eastern Gateway, or the two series of disembowelled pylons stretching westward to the River and south toward the Temple of Mut and modern Luxor. All around below were stone blocks carved with legs and arms, crowns, scepters, and heads, or merely covered with hieroglyphs--all arranged in neat rows by modern men trying to piece together the ancient puzzle of Karnak's history. One block much like these, but carved in the Amarna style, was lodged upside down as part of a second story wall in Khonsu's temple near where I would sit.

At other times I would wander down into town to look about the shops and absorb impressions of village life in Upper Egypt. Once, we went sailing by moonlight in a boat manned by the son of a servant at Chicago House, whose wide smile and high spirits never left him even when the wind dropped, with us in mid-river, and he ended up poling and rowing us for the balance of the sail.

I came closest to the ancient people when I crossed the River with the Egyptologists, Carl DeVries and Dave Larkin; renting a car for the day, we would visit the Valley of the Kings or the tombs of the nobles. It was not the royal tombs so much that took me back--though, elaborate and unfinished, they impressed me; and I would try to make sense of the funeral scenes and the spells. And we went deep into less accessible places, like the tomb of Thutmosis IV, where we slipped and slid down six- and eight-foot precipices that had once been stairways leading to the burial chamber--very modest when we reached it, and most memorable for the hieratic inscription on the wall scribbled by some ancient official to note that the King's burial had not (yet) been disturbed. Nevertheless, that Valley was too stark, scorched dry of life and sterilized by the sun glare, and too majestic for hints of the people I sought.

Such impressions came rather in the nobles' tombs, with their lively scenes--the banquets, hunting in the marsh, the work in the fields and reckoning of the harvest, the musicians and dancing girls, the harpers (sometimes, like Homer, blind)--these were the visual analogues to the love songs I had been translating. Here was a parallel to the texture of ancient life found in the poems, with their orchards and gardens, their settings of leisure in the open air, their easy pleasures, and their joy in the art of living.

We visited several of these decorated tombs--Ramose, Nakht, Menna--and I paused here as I had by the royal mummies in Cairo, but this time to pay homage to a lust for life, not the hush of death. The very situation of these tombs testified to the persistence of life; for, cheek by jowl with them stood the huts of the living villagers.

The event that in a way epitomized my trip occurred at Luxor. One of the staff members at Chicago House, a professional guide in her own right, when she heard of my interest in the ancient love songs, handed me a German translation of what she said was a love song to Queen Nefertari. It looked genuine; and since she didn't know the source, I began running it down in the library--only to discover it was right there on a wall in Luxor Temple. I walked downtown to look for my Queen; and I found her, there in the first court on the west wall near the door. She was standing, slim and lovely with sistra in her hands, singing for her father, Amon. A text was carved beside her portrait, which I quickly copied down, realizing it was indeed the original of the German translation. I was even able to correct a few signs in Daressy's transcription, made long ago. I hurried back with my copy, making a rough translation in my room, and again visiting the library to fill in some damaged phrases from parallels in Nefertari's temple at Abu Simbel. And then, after working over it for a day, I had my love song, found in situ.

Finally the time came when I had to leave. I was headed for London and some work with papyri in the British Museum (and only those caught by the lure of the Middle East can understand that England was an anticlimax). My flight was to leave by dawn; and so I had packed and settled accounts the night before, took a few hours fitful sleep, and got up in the quiet of 4 a.m. My taxi ride to the airport was a fitting last impression. The air was pleasantly cool still, and the streets of Cairo almost deserted. No horns or jockeying for position on the roadway, and only a man here and there bound for an early job in the dark. I made silent farewells to the places that had become landmarks for me as we circled away from my pension, went along the corniche, turned right through Tahrir Square, on by the train station, and on and on out to the terminal. The impressions of the past month had already begun to form the pattern I had hoped for, and I would feed on them in the months to come. There is nothing like Egypt for the first time; and I thought with affection of all the people--ancient and modern--I had come upon.

(Professor Foster has promised his translation
of the poem for a future issue of the Newsletter)

U.A.R. CABINET OF MINISTERS

APPOINTED ON MAY 14, 1971

(Asterisk indicates a new appointment)

Dr. Mahmud Fawzy, Prime Minister

Dr. Aziz Sidky, Deputy Prime Minister for Production and Trade and Minister of Industry, Petroleum and Mining

* Dr. Mohamed Abdul Kader Hatem, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information

Sayed Maréi, Deputy Prime Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation and Minister of Agriculture, Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation

Mahmud Riad, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mohamed Abdullah Merziban, Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade and Acting Minister of Supply

Dr. Sayed Gabaliah el Sayed, Minister of Planning

Dr. Abdul Aziz Higazy, Minister of Treasury

Dr. Mohamed Hafez Ghanem, Minister of Education

Dr. Abdul Aziz Kamel, Minister of Wakfs and Al Azhar Affairs

* Mohamed Hamdy Ashur, Minister of Local Government

* Dr. Abdul Wahab el Borollosy, Minister of Scientific Research

Hafez Badawy, Minister of Social Affairs

Dr. Abdul Mahmud Sallam, Minister of Health

Mohamed Hafez Ismail, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed, Minister for Presidential Affairs

Hassan Fahmy el Badawy, Minister of Justice

Dr. Ahmed Esmat Abdul Meguid, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs

Dr. Ahmed el Sayed Darwish, Minister of Tourism

Abdul Latif Boltia, Minister of Labor

Ahmed Nuh, Minister of State for Civil Aviation

Mohamed Abdul Salam el Zayyat, Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs

* Mamduh Salem, Minister of Interior

* General Mohamed Ahmed Sadek, Minister of War

* Dr. Mohamed Morsi Ahmed, Minister of Higher Education

* Ahmed Sultan, Minister of Power

* Aly el Sayed, Minister of Housing and Utilities

* Soliman Abdul Hai, Minister of Transport

* Mohamed Abdul Rakib, Minister of Irrigation

* Aly Waly, Minister of State for Petroleum and Mining

* Dr. Mustafa Kamal Tolba, Minister of Youth

* Dr. Ismail Ghanem, Minister of Culture

Of the members of the present Cabinet, the Minister of Culture, within whose province lies the Department of Antiquities, and the Minister of Higher Education, to whom we are responsible for our Fellowship Program, are of particular interest to the ARCE. Both are new appointments.

Dr. Ismail Ghanem, the new Minister of Culture, has a legal background, having received a doctorate in law from Paris University in 1951. For many years on the faculty of Ein Shems University, he has successively held the posts of Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, Dean of the Faculty of Law and finally Vice-Rector of Ein Shems University. Dr. Ghanem is the author of several books on legal matters, the most important of which is "The Theory of Commitments in the Civil Code". He was selected to serve on the 100-member committee to supervise the National Congress elections. At the time of his appointment as Minister, Dr. Ghanem was Egypt's representative to UNESCO in Paris. Dr. Ghanem is married and has two children.

Dr. Mohammed Morsi Ahmed, newly appointed Minister of Higher Education, was born in 1908 and was graduated from the Faculty of Science, Cairo University, in 1929. He received his doctorate in mathematics from Edinburgh University. He began his teaching career as lecturer of mathematics, was then appointed assistant professor and finally professor at Cairo University. He was named Dean of the Faculty of Science in 1957, Vice-Rector of Cairo University in 1958, and Rector in 1967. Dr. Ahmed was elected to the Arabic Language Academy in 1962. Author of four books on mathematics, Dr. Ahmed was awarded the State Science Prize in 1965. At the time of his appointment as Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Ahmed was in Iraq on the invitation of the Iraqi Government, attending a meeting of the Arab Universities Union.

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTES IN CAIRO

1. Austrian Archaeological Institute, Austrian Cultural Center
Director: Dr. Manfred Bietak
1103 Corniche el Nil, Garden City Tel: 24063
2. Czechoslovakian Egyptological Institute
Director: Dr. Zbynek Zaba
Rues des Pyramides, The Pyramids, Giza Tel: 85080
3. Dutch Archaeological Institute *
Director: Dr. Willem Stoetzer
1 Rue Mahmoud Azmi, Zamalek Tel: 80076
4. French Institute of Archaeology
Director: Dr. Serge Sauneron
33 Sharia Sheikh Aly Youssef, El Mounira, Cairo Tel: 27307
5. German Archaeological Institute
Director: Dr. Werner Kaiser
23 Sharia El Gezira El Wasta, Zamalek Tel: 801460
6. Italian Archaeological Institute, Italian Cultural Center
Director: Dr. Carla Burri
3 Sharia Sheikh El Marssafi, Zamalek Tel: 808791
7. Polish Archaeological Institute
Director: Dr. Kazimierz Michaelowski
Secretary General: Victor Andre Daszeusti
14 Sharia Baron Empain, Heliopolis Tel: 66328

8. Swiss Egyptological Institute
Director: Dr. Gerhard Haeny
13 Sharia El Mahaad El Swissry, Zamalek Tel: 809359

9. Yugoslav Archaeological Institute, Yugoslav Embassy
Director: Dr. Bernarda Perc
33 Sharia Mansour Mohamed, Zamalek Tel: 802160

* Although its official title is "The Netherlands Institute for Archaeology and Arabic Studies" and it is under the sponsorship of the Dutch Embassy, the Dutch Institute is not technically a "national" institute since it receives its support from Leiden University.

NOTES ON ACTIVITIES IN THE UAR

Department of Antiquities

In Memphis the Department of Antiquities has discovered a temple of Ramses II apparently dedicated to Hathor, since columns with the head of the goddess as capitals were found among the remains. This newly discovered temple lies southwest of the existing remains of the Temple of Ramses II.

In Saqqara the tomb of Nionkhnum and Khnumhotep, discovered under the causeway of Unas, has been rebuilt and will be published along with the neighboring tomb of Nofer, by the Department of Antiquities and the German Institute in Cairo.

At a meeting in Paris of representatives of African countries in early April, Dr. Gamal Moukhtar, Under Secretary for Antiquities, was elected Vice-President of a Committee to write the history of Africa, which is to comprise five volumes. President of the 30-member Committee is the Rector of Haile Selassie University in Addis Ababa. Dr. Moukhtar was also named to direct the writing of the volume covering the period from prehistory to the Arab conquest.

A R C E

During April authorization was received from the Department of Antiquities to proceed with excavations at Fustat. In the absence, due to prior commitments, of the Director George Scanlon, work began almost immediately under the direction of Dr. Wladyslaw Kubiak. It is now planned that the 1971 season will be in two parts, May - June, under the direction of Dr. Kubiak, and September - October, under the direction of Dr. Scanlon.

Also in April a concession was granted for an expedition from the University of Toronto, under the direction of Dr. Donald Redford, to continue an epigraphic survey, begun last year, of the Temple of Osiris, Lord of Eternity, in the Karnak Complex. The expedition has been working on the survey since the beginning of June and has just received permission to proceed with a clearing operation in the immediate vicinity of the Temple.

The Permanent Committee of the Department of Antiquities has approved in principle the granting of an archaeological concession at Memphis to Dr. Donald Hansen of the New York University Institute of Fine Arts and Dr. Christine Lilyquist of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The excavations at Fustat and Memphis, and the clearing operation of the Osiris Temple, are sponsored by the A.R.C.E. with funds made available by the Smithsonian Institution.

Two ARCE Fellows, Dr. Charles E. Smith and Mr. Ralph M. Coury, appeared recently on a taped Cairo TV program in which scholars were interviewed in Arabic at the Dar al Kutub.

Other

An expedition from Cairo University, under the direction of Dr. Abd El Megid Salah, has recently uncovered a town formerly inhabited by workmen just to the south of the Pyramid Temple of Mycerinus. Houses of sun-dried brick were within an enclosure surrounded by massive walls about 3.50 meters in width. To the north of the Temple were found blocks of stone, apparently the pavement of some building whose function has not yet been determined.

Prof. Laufrey, French Head of the Franco-Egyptian Center in Karnak, recently discovered three statues in a depression in the quay located in front of the Temple of Amon Re. Two of the statues, headless, were of the royal scribe Menthuhotep, seated, of gray granite, from the time of Amenophis II. The third was of limestone and represented a king in the form of Osiris, without inscription but probably dating from the 18th dynasty.

On April 28 the Netherlands Institute for Archaeology and Arabic Studies, 1 Sh. Mahmoud Azmi, Zamalek, was formally opened by the Minister of Culture, H. E. Mr. Badreddin Abu Ghazy. The opening of the Institute was preceded by a lecture given in the nearby Gezira Club by Dr. A. Klassens, Director of the Museum of Antiquities at Leiden, whose subject was "A Social Revolution in Ancient Egypt".

During May, Mr. Sharon O. Buckingham of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory at the University of California in Berkeley spent two weeks in Egypt checking out the equipment used in determining whether there were any hidden chambers in the Chephren Pyramid. The equipment, located partly in the burial chamber of the Pyramid and partly in the laboratory nearby, was found to be in good condition and, with a few adjustments, worked satisfactorily. An application has been made to the National Science Foundation for funds to reactivate the project. If the application is approved, the spark chambers will be set on a tilted platform which can be rotated, thereby permitting the equipment to scan at least 45% of the volume of the Pyramid instead of the 15% which has already been examined.

Dr. Gamal Moukhtar hosted a large farewell dinner party honoring Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Ricke, who leave Cairo permanently in early July to start their retirement in Austria. Prof. Ricke, Director of the Swiss Institute for many years, will be succeeded by Dr. Gerhard Haeny.

THE CENTER'S GUEST BOOK

In the month of April, the Center was pleased to welcome Mrs. Lily M. Brown, now United States Director of ARCE on an orientation trip to Egypt of ten days, during which time she visited Luxor. Dr. Francis H. Horn, President of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities in the State of New York and father of one of our former Fellows, stopped by the Center during his brief stay in Egypt. Prof. Owen Gingerish, of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and Professor of Astronomy at Harvard, called to discuss a project relating to the history of astronomy in Egypt. Mr. Andrew Oliver, Jr., Assistant Curator of the Greco-Roman Collection at the Metropolitan Museum, paid us a visit. Mr. Aldin Zivie of the French Institute and Dr. Rainer Stadelman, Deputy Director of the German Institute, called to consult on recent activities of the Center. Miss Nancy Maley was briefed on the Center's program in connection with an article she was writing for the New York Times on the American community in Cairo. Mrs. Laurie H. Austin of the Seattle Art Museum, accompanied by Mrs. C. C. March of St. Paul, inspected the Center in response to a letter recently received by the Museum soliciting the Museum's membership in the ARCE. Mr. Wayne Fredericks, Director of the Near East Section of the Ford Foundation, and Mr. James Ivy, Director of the Ford Foundation program in the U.A.R., called to discuss future plans for the Center. Dr. and Mrs. Bruce D. Craig of the

University of Minnesota and Dr. Marsden Jones of the American University in Cairo called at the Center. Mr. Youssef Saumbage of the Ministry of Education presented to the Center's library a dictionary of the Nubian Language which he has been compiling over the last forty years.

One of our first visitors during May was Mr. Sharon O. Buckingham, engineer from the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory of the University of California, who was here briefly to examine the equipment used in "x-raying" the Chephren Pyramid and to assess the possibilities of reactivating the project. Professor Donald Redford with ten members of the epigraphic survey team passed through Cairo on their way to Luxor, where they are currently working on the Temple of Osiris, Lord of Eternity, in the Karnak complex. Miss Lisa Cook, an old friend of the Center's, and Miss Duane Garrison, both from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, dropped in at the Center several times during their two-week visit to Egypt. Mr. David A. King, instructor in astronomy at the American University of Beirut, called to discuss further plans for a project on astronomy in Islamic history on which he may collaborate with Prof. Gingerish (see above) and for which he may seek ARCE support. Miss Leila Menassa of the French Archaeological Institute made a courtesy call at the Center.

Mr. John Dimick, Life Member of the ARCE and one of the early supporters of our organization, called in early June to discuss his interest in collaborating with the Department of Antiquities in the unearthing and displaying of the second boat of Cheops which is believed to lie in a still untouched pit just south of the Great Pyramid. Mr. and Mrs. Evelyn A. Early, with a letter of introduction from the Brooklyn Museum, visited the Center, as did two graduate students from the Center for Arabic Studies Abroad, possible candidates for future ARCE grants.

Collège de France
Égyptologie



2025639

